

# ACORN



## **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario**

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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### **ACORN IV - 1**

**SPRING 1979**

#### **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter**

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### **The Cover**

#### **The Former Polley's Livery Stable in Goderich**

Slated for demolition in October, 1978, it was saved by an eleventh-hour purchase. It is likely to become a Centre for the Performing and Visual Arts. A campaign to raise \$350,000.00 was launched in mid-February, 1979, to convert the building into a 300-seat theatre with display area for the visual arts.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As this year of 1979 has been proclaimed the International Year of the Child, in order to encourage governments and individuals around the world to concern themselves with the present condition of their children, we thought it might be amusing to look at the way one individual tried to better the living conditions of the child way back in the 1850's

An American phrenologist, Mr. Fowler, conceived the idea that a house built in the octagon design would provide an exceptionally good atmosphere in which to bring up children. With the bedrooms, living room, play room, and kitchen all surrounding the centre stair-well, the children would be always near the mother, and this, Mr. Fowler asserted, would result in better behaved children and a happier mother!

Possibly.

Mothers, in those days, were not as emancipated as in these, and one didn't as often hear the exasperated plea "Get them out of my hair!" as one does now. Also, children were more disciplined then. And this fact produced happier children.

Mr. Fowler also gave mind to the senior citizens. His advanced thinking advocated water tanks fed from rainwater pipes throughout the house to supply water to sinks and basins. The elderly should not have to carry water to their bedrooms nor should they have to use an outside toilet. It is probable that the Octagon House had the first indoor bathroom in Port Hope.

One interesting point about the Octagon is that when it was offered for sale in 1893 the asking price was \$4,300. The advertisement stated that the property produced enough berries, fruit, and vegetables to pay for the gardeners.



THE OCTAGON

Photo by Mandy Martin, Port Hope Evening Guide

## NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

### From the Branches

#### PORT HOPE

##### The Old Firehall

The feasibility study on the old firehall by consultants Macpherson, Walker, Wright Associates Ltd. offers nine options for the old building's future.

The complete renovation will cost an estimated \$187,000, of which \$124,000 in grants could be forthcoming if the public raises \$24,000 and the town meets the remaining \$39,000.

Considering demolition would cost \$22,000 with hidden expenses such as carting the debris to a dump in Newcastle, and finding a new location for the Chamber of Commerce, saving the historical building would seem economically sensible.

The firehall, renovated, would give an enlarged home to the Chamber of Commerce, a museum and permanent address for the Historical Society, and a large auditorium for societies to use for lectures and meetings. A nearby college has indicated interest in renting the hall for three days a week for off-campus programs in the community. An elevator in the building would make it accessible for persons of all ages, including the handicapped.

Council is putting \$20,000 aside, and we are applying for a grant from Wintario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The Port Hope Branch is working closely with the Chamber of Commerce and the East Durham Historical Society to raise the amount of \$44,000 over and above all grants and the town's \$20,000 commitment.

##### LACAC for 1979 & 1980 Appointed

At its inaugural meeting, the LACAC appointed its executive for the coming year. Mrs. Marion Garland is chairman, with Mr. Tom Long vice-president, and Mrs. K. Liberty secretary. Other members are Mrs. W. B. Chapple, Mrs. Peter Moffatt, Mr. Pierre St. Laurent, Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe, and Mrs. Susan Thomas. The two representatives from Council are Mrs. David Blackwood and Mr. Rod Stewart.

##### Heritage Day Meeting

A meeting was held to commemorate Heritage Day on February 12. Although the date for Heritage Day was February 19, it was decided to combine two events on the same evening: a general meeting, and the showing of the movie "Stations", procured and shown by Mr. Pierre St. Laurent.

##### The Grange

This handsome house is similar to the Lyons-Jones House, (c.1835) in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Anyone who has visited the Grange on a Port Hope house tour will be sad to learn that the place has been sold to a developer who intends to build an apartment building on the lawn with stores on the ground floor.

##### George Baird Speaks to Group

On February 27, Mr. George Baird, University of Toronto professor and architect, spoke to a large group at the town hall. Mr. Baird using slides, presented the case histories and deterioration of three Ontario centres, Brockville, Brantford, and Napanee. He noted the way public spaces were used, and business practices involving chain stores and the growth of shopping plazas. He showed how the latter have contributed toward the destruction of some of the finer architectural buildings in the three centres.

#### TORONTO REGION

##### Laughlen Lodge, 87 Elm Street

An important and necessary refuge for Toronto's poor was built in 1848. Designed by the great architect, surveyor, engineer, and artist, John G. Howard, The House of Industry was known as the Poor House. Previously the only public institution to house Toronto's indigent was the jail.

Sometimes referred to as Queen Anne, the building's architecture provided a pleasing appearance. It was enlarged in 1899 by the addition

of east and west wings and a third floor, executed by E. J. Lennox, the architect of the Old City Hall.

Surely a building of this significance, with its historical interest to Toronto is worth saving.

The Toronto Historical Board engaged the firm of Diamond and Myers to undertake a feasibility study of the original building in 1974, yet in September of that year directors of Rotary-Laughlin Centre applied for a demolition permit.

Laughlin Lodge, as it was later named, was built only 14 years after the incorporation of the City of Toronto. John G. Howard, the designer of some of the most important buildings including the Court House and Goal, additions to Osgoode Hall, the Lunatic Asylum at 999 Queen Street, (destroyed in 1976), left his house, Colborne Lodge, and his estate now known as High Park, to the city of Toronto. Aside from Colborne Lodge, The House of Industry is his only remaining building in Toronto.

This is amazing considering what a wide range his activities covered. John G. Howard at one time was a drawing master for Upper Canada College. He surveyed Toronto Harbour, laid out streets and sidewalks, built bridges and sewers, won the competition to build 999 Queen Street, added a new ballroom to Government House, designed Brock's Monument at Queenston (later blown up), designed banks, breweries, theatres, schools, churches, markets, court houses and jails. His wife, Jemima, helped him run the lines when he was first appointed City Surveyor in 1834! The bathroom in his home, Colborne Lodge, was the first bathroom in Toronto with running water.

Suggestions for various uses for Laughlin Lodge have been put forth, but representatives of Rotary-Laughlin showed no interest when Mayor Sewell met with them in December.

M.G.

## HAMILTON-NIAGARA

### Central Public School

A major issue in Hamilton has been the threatened closure of Central Public School (1853) which we believe to be Ontario's oldest functioning public school. The school was designated in November, 1977 by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

In addition to being an architectural gem, and an oasis in the centre of Hamilton, it is a vital community resource in the Durand neighbourhood and is the kingpin for mixed residential living and the health of the entire inner city.

When a plaque was put on the school in November, 1977, Hamilton-Niagara's Mr. P. Allan addressed the crowded auditorium outlining the historical background and suggested a big 125th birthday celebration in May, 1978. The party was organized, and it was quite a gala event.

In the fall of 1978 the ACO wrote to the Board of Education and the Home and School outlining our concerns and supporting the continued use of the school.

On February 2nd, and again on February 5th Mr. Allan went on T.V. with a panel made up of a planner-alderman, President of Durand Neighbourhood, a concerned citizen moderator, and a school trustee. The subject was "The Threatened Closure of CPS". Mr. Allan spoke of the magnificence and significance of the school and its architecture which he illustrated with slides. He also showed the importance of the school to the inner city health.

It is expected that the trustees will make a decision regarding the school's future before spring. If it is not too late by this printing, letters of support, addressed to The Board Chairman, at 100 Main St. W., Hamilton, would be useful.



HAMILTON'S CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL  
(Cumberland and Ridout, 1853)

### Meeting in Children's Museum

A meeting was planned for Feb. 15, in the Hamilton Children's Museum. The Curator, Marjorie Scott Johnston, was to speak, also Mr. William D. King, speaking on "Gage Park — An Historical Sketch."

### Professor Couling's Screen Slide Presentation

Despite nasty weather, Hamilton and area conservationists came in impressive numbers to absorb Guelph's Gordon Couling's three screen

slide presentation on Ontario's architectural "collectables".

Using comparative slides of architectural details from his collection, our speaker stressed the importance of preserving the "small" (collectables) when entire buildings are hopelessly condemned to demolition. From years of travelling the backroads of our part of the Province, Professor Couling has recorded many buildings and their details, some now lost. In many cases, study reveals similarities in detailing (in a broad sense), in locales quite distant from one another. Such observed similarities suggest, in many instances, that the buildings were designed by the same architect, an architect who had previously been known responsible for, say, a few more prominent buildings still standing in the larger urban areas.

The audience had been drawn by the speaker's reputation and by adequate advance publicity. Fully half of the people were non-members and we have been encouraged by some new memberships received at and after this meeting.

## HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

### Final Meetings of 1978



Heritage Cambridge saw the old year out with two meetings, both pleasurable social occasions as well as being mentally stimulating. One was a snack-luncheon at the Central Library, at which we expected to view two films from Heritage Canada. Unfortunately the films didn't arrive, but our Library staff came to the rescue with a most interesting substitute film.

On November 30th a large group gathered at the City Hall council chamber to hear Dr. William DeVilliers-Westfall give a fascinating lecture, with accompanying slides. His subject was "The Uses of Architecture in Canadian History". Dr. Westfall's thesis is that by examining the architecture of a specific historical period, one can understand the values, beliefs, motives and aspirations of that time. Through his presentation he illustrated these relationships in much the same way as a literary critic can use literature for historical analysis. The meeting was arranged by Alex Dufresne. After the presentation Christmas cake, cookies and punch were enjoyed by all.

### Local Speeches

Heritage Cambridge is often asked by various clubs in this district to provide speakers for their

programmes. We are now purchasing some photographic equipment which should make it possible to put together several series of slides, with commentary. This will make it easier to provide interesting and informative presentations on heritage subjects.

### Heritage Day

Heritage Day, February 19th, was so proclaimed by the Mayor of Cambridge. To mark this significant time, Heritage Cambridge planned a number of displays. In each of the three downtown core areas store windows showed artifacts and fashions of days gone by. A prize-winning display made by five high-school students was shown at the Central Library. It depicted the cultural and historical heritage of the whole region. At some of the schools, teachers used slides and information provided by Heritage Cambridge to enable their students to learn more about their past.

### Workshop

A workshop on rehabilitating old houses is being planned for April 21st. A similar program last spring was a great success, and it is hoped we can go on from there. This year it may be possible to have some advice on restoring furniture as well as buildings. Fraser and Ruth Parrott are letting Heritage Cambridge hold the workshop at their beautiful old home in Blair. Full details are still being worked on, but we hope to have the final plans announced shortly.

### Papersmith Mill

It is very heartening when the potential of an old building is recognized and developed, proving again that rehabilitation can be very practical. In the Hespeler area of Cambridge three men, Andrew James Smith, Avrom Isaacs, and Earl Rosen, have taken an old flour and feed mill and turned it into a mill to make hand made paper of high quality. Such paper is much in demand for artists, so a steady market should ensure many more useful years for this old building, now known as Papersmith Mill. We wish them much success.







## LONDON REGION

### New Officers

The appointment of officers and councillors for the London Region Branch for 1979-1980 are as follows: A. B. Kilb, President; I. McKillop, Past President; N. Brandon, Vice President; D. Newton, Secretary; I. McKillop, Treasurer; O. Bartram, Membership; I. McKillop, A.C.O. Rep.; M. J. Eldridge, ACORN Rep. Councillors: J. Allen, S. Clarke, W. E. Hitchins, L. McCallum, M. McGugan, R. Mills, M. Rogers, D. Williams, A. McKillop, L.A.C.A.C. Rep.; A. B. Kilb, Museums Rep.; I. McKillop, Walking Tour; D. Newton, A. B. Kilb.

### Walking Tour

Sunday, June 3rd has been set as the date for London's annual walking tour.

## HURON COUNTY

On November 23rd about 50 people attended the ACO Huron Branch Christmas dinner at the Little Inn in Bayfield. A social hour was enjoyed prior to the dinner.

The speaker for the evening, George Baird, of the University of Toronto, was introduced by Chris Borgal, of the architectural firm of Hill and Borgal of Goderich.

Mr. Baird spoke of some of his restoration work illustrated with slides. He seemed to favour a combination of traditional and contemporary.

Mrs. Marion Zinn of Goderich thanked Mr. Baird for his very interesting presentation.

The program committee announced that due to the uncertain weather in January and February, the next meeting would be held on March 22nd.

### Clinton

The Clinton Town Hall was recently designated by the Town Council. The Goderich firm of Hill and Borgal are now doing a study on the cost of restoring the building, and it is hoped that the study will be presented to Council by the end of February.

### Seaforth

The Seaforth LACAC was instrumental in obtaining the films "A Place in Time" and

"Architectural Conservation — Does It Matter" from Heritage Canada to show at the annual Seaforth Chamber of Commerce Dinner on November 23rd. It is hoped to arouse more interest among the local merchants in preserving Seaforth's Main Street as a Designated Heritage District within the next few years.

### Polley's Livery Stable

The Valentine season was an appropriate time to begin the labour of love which will attempt to raise \$350,000.00 to convert a century old stable in Goderich into a centre for the Arts. The giant thermometer which will record the progress of the campaign was erected on the front of the building on February 13, 1979. One of the first donations was inclosed in a valentine to indicate how close to the donor's heart is this project.

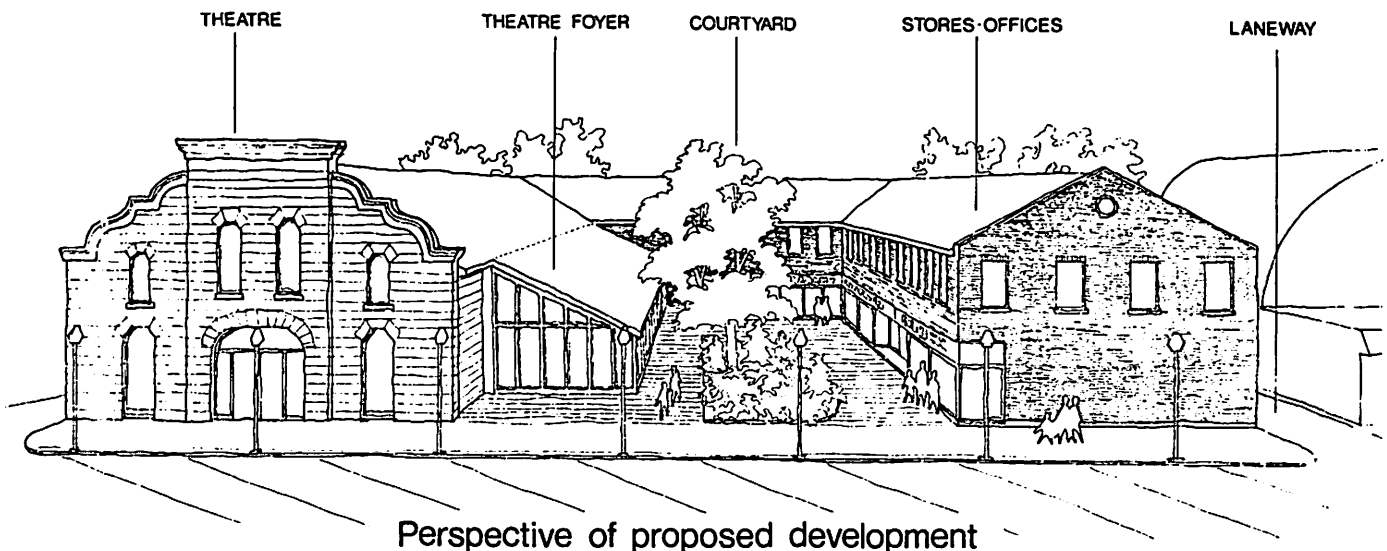
The date over the entrance to the Polley's Livery Stable is 1878, but the rear portion of the building is of earlier construction. Both portions are stone. Apart from a few stone dwellings in Goderich, this is one of only two large stone edifices in town, the other being the Huron Historic Gaol. It is situated on South Street close to the Square which forms the hub of the town. Its dimensions are approximately 40' x 128' with centre height of 28'.

A. M. Polley built his livery stable in close proximity to the two main hotels on the Square. For many years his omnibuses met all trains and passenger ships and provided mail and stage coach services to the east only. He also shipped many carloads of horses from this district to the Canadian and American West during the 1880s and 1890s when the prairie land was becoming settled.

Following the era of the horse, the building became a Ford car garage and sheltered automobiles for about 50 years. For the past ten it has served as part of a building centre.

The owner's intent to demolish the building along with the rest of the building supply structures was forestalled in October, 1978, by a last minute purchase of the lot on which it stands and of the adjoining lot. It is hoped that a complementary commercial development will be forthcoming for the adjoining lot.

In January a group of citizens formed the Goderich Performing Arts Foundation. Subsequent representations to the Foundation by visual arts groups have expanded the original concept to include a display area for the visual arts. The objectives of the Foundation are to develop the



site as a centre for the performing and visual arts and to do so with as little alteration to the stone building as possible.

Architectural studies by the Goderich firm of Hill and Borgal indicate that the building can contain a 300-seat auditorium with raked floor, a stage with 35-foot proscenium width and ample back stage area. It will be necessary to build a foyer on the south side of the stone building which will also provide a display area for the visual arts.

The \$350,000.00 sum to be raised includes the purchase price as well as the estimated cost of restoration. The fund raising campaign is being organized by a very capable young woman, Heather Lyons. Since the proposed Centre lies within the designated Goderich Heritage District and the building itself is listed for designation by the Goderich L.A.C.A.C. it will qualify for a grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Since a

theatre is to be put in a Heritage building it will qualify for a grant under the Arts Division of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. If mortgage money cannot be obtained at an affordable rate from other institutions it may be obtained from Heritage Canada.

The core of Goderich is struggling to remain competitive with the two malls which have sprung up on the outskirts of the town. A downtown revitalization program is underway. The proposed Centre should assist in keeping the Square a lively and attractive place.

If any of the readers of ACORN should be moved to support the Goderich Performing Arts Foundation they are invited to send their donation to Heather Lyons, 58 Elgin Avenue, East, Goderich, Ontario N7A 1K2. A receipt will be sent as soon as the Foundation has received its charter.

3 August, 1978

The Hon. James Snow,  
Min. of Transportation and Communications,  
Province of Ontario,  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Minister:

We are writing to you in the "shade" of recent experiences concerning just protests of citizens in the neighbourhood of a Heritage Highway about to undergo drastic alterations and the

threatened loss of majestic and, in our terms, ancient, trees.

After reviewing reports we made our own survey of the work in progress in the Wainfleet area, namely current improvements on that section of Highway 3. For many years we have been familiar with that part of the road and have always enjoyed its interest, scenically, its pleasant relief of shade afforded by the mature tree canopy and its long-settled appearance.

However it is quite apparent, despite your welcomed intervention to reduce the wanton re-



removal of well-grown trees, that other work being done, particularly in ditching and the consequent damage and exposure of root systems, will simply prolong an agony already registered, namely that the trees will succumb prematurely to wilt and death, their inevitable removal quickly to follow.

We deem it essential, in the preservation of our fast-dwindling resources of natural and man-made beauty, that all that is possible be done to halt this senseless, and expensive, desecration. We commend to your consideration, therefore, the following immediate steps:

First that all proposals for Heritage Highways come up for review immediately, whether committed to construction, contract or not, for presentation to interested bodies who are in a position to safeguard the public's concerns and furthermore could assist in evolving satisfactory and less destructive compromises. Such public bodies as the Ontario Heritage Foundation and private organizations including the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario are vitally concerned in these matters and have advisors and advisory groups able to help you. We recognize that other Heritage Highways, notably Highway 2 east of Toronto and in the Grafton area in particular, are being surveyed and have had schemes explained to local people. Unfortunately we noted that trees were neither clearly nor sufficiently indicated, particularly those slated for removal, to give a realistic picture of the proposals. We could anticipate for instance the total removal of the picturesque locust-shrouded hill between Newtonville and Port Hope which is such an exceptional accident of previous highway work.

Secondly, all Heritage Highways, now being considered for alteration by establishing modern standards to maintain the present posted speed limit, shall have the speed limit reduced to conform to the limitations of their present design. Strict enforcement of newly assigned speed limits should be considered. This action will emphasize the character of the road, favour safety on stretches now considered hazardous and should serve to preserve the present pleasant aspects of the highway, including its trees. Should this action be acceptable to those who front the road, and still move traffic steadily across the Province, then rebuilding of the pavement, at a fraction of the cost of more widespread remedial work, should suffice.

Thirdly, landscape plans noting highway tree growth and proposed replacements, including new plantings, should be developed in conjunction with highway engineers and should be under the direction of a landscape architect or consultant

also qualified in historic landscape concerns. Such a consultant would be able, in short order, to analyze existing tree growth, approximate dates of planting, physical condition and species appropriate to the area to enhance the existing pattern. This last is of prime importance to suit the natural and ornamental planting previously practised and to avoid the usual shock so often apparent in the unsympathetic planting of super-highways.

Fourthly, your department is to be encouraged and provided with the necessary funds to undertake the restoration of suitable tree cover, first to Heritage Highways throughout the Province and secondly to other major highways. Furthermore it is recommended that, under similar guidelines noted above, any county or municipal roads, subsidized by grants from the Province, shall be subject to like conditions and provisions.

We trust that this general approach will be initiated immediately and that in the near future we can meet with you to discuss further operational details. The Advisory Board of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario would be pleased to co-operate in this regard.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of a brief presented to your Ministry in early 1973 entitled A Concept for Scenic Roads in Ontario, prepared by the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and the Ontario Shade Tree Council.

Yours faithfully,  
Peter John Stokes,  
President.

October 4, 1978

Mr. P. J. Stokes,  
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario,  
Association House,  
191 College Street,  
Toronto, Ontario.  
M5T 1P7

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 1978, in which you made several constructive suggestions concerning improvements to Heritage Highways. I agree with you that it is essential that we take steps to ensure the preservation of our natural and man-made heritage wherever possible. Therefore, I can assure you that your comments are most appreciated and have been given careful consideration. In order to deal with your proposals satisfactorily I would like to dis-

cuss each of them separately, in the order in which you presented them in your letter.

Your first suggestion is that all our plans for improvements to Heritage Highways be presented immediately for review by interest groups such as your own organization. This idea certainly has merit, but I question whether the method you suggest would be the most effective. As you know, we have a number of projects under study on the Heritage Highways, in various stages of completion. To attempt to review all of these projects at the present time would mean that some would not receive the attention they deserve, while others may be examined at a stage where useful dialogue between your group and our designers is very difficult. A mechanism does exist for the review of all our undertakings by the general public, environmental interest groups and other government agencies at all levels. This type of participatory highway planning, which is required by the Environmental Assessment Act, has been an integral part of our process for several years. I believe that a more effective use of this existing framework would best serve your interests as well as those of my Ministry. Therefore, I have instructed my staff to add the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation to the list of contacts to be consulted on projects involving the Heritage Highways and other similar routes.

Your second suggestion, that speed limits be reduced on Heritage Highways to match existing conditions, is a valid one for some sections of highway. Where a bypass or a high-standard alternative route is available, then this approach may well be acceptable, depending on the traffic volumes. However, there are some sections of the Heritage Highways which function as the only arterial road serving a major transportation corridor. Such was the case in the Wainfleet project which you referred to in your letter; Highway 3 is the only arterial highway serving traffic demands along the north shore of Lake Erie from Windsor to Fort Erie. Thus, it was considered essential that this facility be upgraded to at least a minimum standard from the standpoint of safety and traffic service. With reference to your suggestion that we simply rebuild the pavement, I regret that highway construction is usually not that simple. In many cases, the main reason why the existing pavement is in poor condition is inadequate drainage of the highway subgrade. To replace the pavement without remedying this problem would almost certainly result in premature failure of the pavement. Often, improvements to shoulders and ditches are

required to prevent this situation.

Regarding your third suggestion, I am pleased to report that we already have on staff several qualified forestry and landscaping experts who regularly carry out the type of tree analysis and design of refurbishing schemes which you propose. I am confident that these people, working in conjunction with our design engineers, can come up with solutions to most of the problems we are likely to encounter related to roadside trees. If a situation should arise which requires special treatment, and which our staff is not equipped to handle, I would not hesitate to hire a consultant with the necessary expertise.

Your fourth point is perhaps the most difficult to respond to, since the means by which it could be implemented is not under my control. Certainly, if more funds could be made available for the restoration and beautification of our highway rights-of-way, my staff would welcome the opportunity. But frankly, I don't know where the money would come from. My own Ministry has had its budget cut severely in recent years and I know that others have experienced similar reductions. Expenditures by the provincial government have been pared to the bone, and consequently, there is just no money available to expand programs such as the one you suggest. The only avenue open to us would be higher taxation which I am sure would not be acceptable.

I would like to bring to your attention our policy of encouraging natural regeneration wherever possible. We are hopeful that this new approach will enable us to maintain safe, aesthetically pleasing highways, while at the same time reducing environmental impacts and maintenance costs. Briefly stated, it will mean attempting to retain more of the existing vegetation on the right-of-way, less emphasis on "artificially" planted roadsides with neatly mowed grass, and the encouragement of naturally occurring plant materials to encroach on the right-of-way from surrounding areas. Of course, this can only take place where parent trees and appropriate soil and slope conditions are present and the adjacent land use is complementary.

I am sure you can appreciate the difficulties involved in trying to provide a safe, efficient transportation network within the constraints imposed by the natural and social environment. Through our experiences and liaison with groups such as yours, I believe we are moving steadily toward an effective compromise which will best

serve the interests of the citizens of Ontario. Thank you for taking the time to write to me with your suggestions.

With kindest regards, I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
James Snow,  
Minister.

16 October 1978

The Hon. James Snow,  
Minister of Transportation and Communication,  
Ferguson Block,  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Snow:

Thank you very much for your considerate and considered reply of 4 October, 1978 to our letter of 5 August, 1978.

We would appreciate having your reply published alongside our letter in the forthcoming issue of Acorn, to help set the record straight and to let members of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, who receive this publication, realize your views and recognize the problems you have brought forward.

Again we are grateful for your participation in our concerns and sincerely hope that you will continue to do all in your power to achieve the conservation and enhancement of our heritage as well as helping to create a physical environment that will be a heritage for the future. In that you can count on our support and co-operation whenever you need it.

For your information and interest we enclose two recent issues of Acorn to indicate the views and news expressed and to make sure that you have our comments on the Wainfleet problem at hand.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter John Stokes,  
President.

## NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

### Heritage Canada

Heritage Canada has sent its 1979 Awards brochure to heritage affiliated organizations. The awards are to be given to people, groups, or companies who should be recognized for their contribution to the cause of heritage conservation.

Heritage Canada is asking organizations to submit applications for at least one of the following awards: Award of Honour, Gabrielle Léger Medal, Community Service Awards, Communication Award. For more information write The Secretary, Heritage Canada Awards Program, P.O. Box 1358, Station "B", Ottawa K1P 5R4.

### Collingwood and District Historical Society

John and Ralph Sneyd have met with other interested people and formed a LACAC. Using a federal grant, they produced an inventory of approximately 300 buildings and houses, many of pre-1914 vintage in Collingwood. With a Canada Works grant, four highly qualified researchers were hired to help with the inventory.

Hugh Macmillan, a collector for the Ontario Archives, spoke to a meeting in November. He showed examples of letters, posters, and photographs and recounted amusing anecdotes from his experiences.

The executive, together with the Collingwood Progress Club are planning a house tour to be held on June 16.

### Ontario Heritage Foundation

A representative of the Ontario Heritage Foundation explained to a recently formed LACAC and its audience that it is not generally recommended that interior features be designated under designation procedures for a building of historic or architectural interest, because these are of a private nature and are usually not seen by the public at large.

However, we note that the procedures do not make this clear. In the creation of Historic Conservation Districts it is understood that no more than exteriors are concerned, hence the need to secure more valuable examples by individual designations previously.

But the significant interior detail remembered in so many of our early houses which have been carefully preserved it would seem advisable, if not imperative, to include important interior features — otherwise we could be, ultimately, a province of hollow shells.

### Simcoe County Historical Association

Mr. Hugh Macmillan and Peter Moran, Archivist at the Simcoe County Archives will be joint speakers at the Museum, Midhurst, in March.

## **Ontario Heritage Foundation**

A change of policy has occurred in distributing funds to projects involving conservation, particularly of buildings, a change which should be recognized and investigated to ensure that applications for financial support go to the right authority to avoid delays in gaining approvals.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation is now dealing mainly with funds to help support capital costs of conservation whereas a new interpretation of criteria for Wintario again allows that body to give assistance to studies and reports providing background to projects. In essence this means that Wintario should be approached through its regional representatives, before initiating studies and that financial assistance to help allay the capital costs of a project should now be sought from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

We understand that the same Committee will deal with all applications, but a certain expedition is anticipated in the Wintario direction. We hope so: after one experience of postponements for almost a year a study was caught in the sudden change of policy and now requires a new application. One wonders how inflation can be stemmed with such tendencies, or how this might affect those who have submitted proposals for studies at a fixed cost some time previously. C'est la vie, le ruban rouge (to explode our French).

Before making final applications for funds it is important to check the latest requirements carefully.

## **Heritage Ottawa**

Under the guidance of Georges Bédard Ottawa's Advisory Committee grew into Ottawa's LACAC. "There were really no problems in establishing LACAC", said Alderman Bédard. "The politicians had been impressed with the work of the Advisory Committee, so were ready to accept LACAC, and the transition was very smooth. It had been relatively easy to find people of high calibre and diverse (but related) interests to serve on LACAC: architects, engineers, planners, businesspersons, historians and developers. City Council respects the committee's recommendations, and in only one case out of perhaps 150 recommendations has it gone against LACAC's advice."

"Our awareness of Ottawa's heritage has grown considerably in the last four or five years", he said, "and heritage was very much an issue in the past civic election. Ottawa is in a very inter-

esting position at the moment and it is favourable to preservationists. The city is in a 'low demand' phase for office space. At times of 'high demand' for space, the tendency is to knock down old buildings and build to the maximum height allowance. But there's a glut of office space in Ottawa at the moment so the trend is to keep the smaller, old buildings that we have and to improve them. This, of course, makes for a much richer architectural environment".

The alderman feels that the city is conscientiously doing its part to respect Ottawa's heritage. "A lot of what we do in the name of heritage is really disguised under other programs. We've purchased old schools and churches for use as community centres, and we have two firehalls (on King Edward, and on Sunnyside) that we've recycled for other uses. We undertook to rehabilitate two units in Philomene Terrace, we're restoring the Billings Estate, and the money we put into improving the Byward Market area was really in the interest of preserving its heritage features".

## **AROUND AND ABOUT:**

### **Happenings in Ontario**

#### **ALTA VISTA**

The city of Ottawa will spend \$215,000 this year for renovations to the historic Billings Estate near the Rideau River in Alta Vista. The complete job will likely cost \$450,000, but board of control decided Tuesday to spend \$215,000 this year and \$50,000 a year for the next four years.

The building, the oldest house in Ottawa, and the surrounding nine-acre property were purchased by the city for \$500,000 from the descendants of the original inhabitant, Bradish Billings, in 1974.

#### **AYLMER**

If Heritage Aylmer has its way, the Old Town Hall will be preserved. The preservation group has been fighting to save the 105 year-old building, which now stands vacant, for close to two years. They have made proposals to Town Council on ways to restore the hall and make it a paying proposition, but to date, the building remains in limbo.

The Aylmer and Malahide Public Library is now considering the lower floor of the Old Town Hall for this purpose. Heritage Aylmer continues to engage in fund-raising activities. Your contri-

bution is always welcome, from a \$2.00 annual membership upwards.

Send your contribution to Heritage Aylmer, Box 121, Aylmer, Ontario.

## **BARRIE**

Barrie politicians who voted to scrap the Barrie Firehall should be voted out of office, said Bob Phillips, former executive director of Heritage Canada. He also said that Barrie had been robbed of much of its heritage.

"The Firehall is the last piece of heritage Barrie has", he said.

Mr. Phillips said that buildings such as the original post office have been lost because thoughtless politicians didn't stop to consider how they could adapt the building to changing needs. In his talk to the ten historical societies of Simcoe County, he described the loss of several old Barrie homes and such public buildings as the old Barrie Collegiate. The Collegiate was a place of learning that should have been built to last. "When they decided to tear it down, did they ever stop to weigh the inconvenience of old plumbing against the tradition of the building?" he asked. Other public buildings that should not have been lost included the old Barrie post office and railway station.

"If any building has the essence of a community feeling, it is the railway station", he said. "It is a place where so much of our past, yours and mine, is wrapped up. But, without a peep from the citizens of Barrie, they tore down the railway station, and without a peep from city officials or the citizens of Barrie, the federal government tore down the old post office".

Mr. Phillips said that politicians' excuse has always been one of dollars and cents. But it would have made better economic sense to keep those buildings standing.

## **BELLEVILLE**

City council has endorsed the principle of closer co-ordination among all civic groups toward the goal of city-centre renewal. The decision dates to Dec. 6 and the Downtown Revitalization Committee is the team assigned to help shape city-core renewal into an orderly progression.

It is agreed that all civic groups with funds available for any downtown undertakings co-ordinate these with the philosophy of the DRC. That philosophy is embodied with the downtown

conceptual renewal plan, a review of various proposals made over the years, and revised, to fit the needs for a downtown renaissance.

## **BRAMPTON**

A Bramalea couple have offered the city of Brampton their house free of charge if the city wishes to move it to Chinguacousy Park to display it for historical purposes. The house was built in 1832. The city must now determine whether the house has historical value and whether it should be kept by the city in the park.

## **CAMPBELLFORD**

Francis G. B. DeCarrol, chairman for a group of seven Campbellford citizens who have formed a prospective heritage foundation, asked town council to consider salvaging the old mill office at the corner of Bridge Street and Grand Road, from proposed demolition.

Mr. DeCarrol said in his petition to council, "This building, originally a hotel known as Gibson House, was built prior to confederation and is about the last remnant of antique architecture in Campbellford. It bears all the fine examples of pre-confederation construction and could be restored".

## **CLINTON**

LACAC was given a budget in principle of \$1000. by the Clinton Council last December. A summer student will be hired to conduct a survey of the downtown core of Clinton. The town will pay 25 per cent of his salary, or close to \$300, while the Ontario Heritage Foundation will cover the rest. The \$300 will come out of LACAC's \$1000 budget along with an additional \$200 for expenses and office supplies.

## **COBALT**

Cobalt is moving to protect its list of historic sites. The list includes the old Cobalt Nugget office on Silver Street.

## **DUNDAS**

Three local homes have been designated by council under provision of The Ontario Heritage Act as having significant historic and architectural value. The houses are, 22 Cross Street, considered an outstanding example of a late Georgian townhouse, 190 Governor's Road, "Orchard Hill", a gracious two storey brick mansion, and 10 Over-

field Street, "Foxbar", (now the Rygiel Home for Disabled Children), listed as an "excellent and uncommon example of a two storey stone house with a centre hall plan that combines late classical and early Italianate features."

Designation of these homes was requested last summer by the Dundas LACAC.

## EDMONDVILLE

The Ontario Heritage Foundation has approved a \$26,000 grant for restoration work on the Van Egmond house in Egmondville which has been designated an historic site.

## EFFINGHAM

The Norris-Powell house in Effingham is not merely another old house. Instead, it can justly lay claim to being the cradle of today's Pelham.

A group of local historians and other interested people are hoping that one day, it will be declared an historic site and become the home of an historic library or a museum, chronicling the history of the entire area. The house was built in about 1784 and was the house of David Secord, a United Empire Loyalist and was the first settler in the area. He also built the grist mill and planted apple trees near his house.

## ERNESTOWN

### Grand Trunk Railway Station

This remarkable change of concern for heritage buildings by our national railway is to be commended.



GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY STATION, c. 1855  
Photo by Peter John Stokes, Sept 1979

## HAMILTON

The sale of one of Hamilton's most important architectural landmarks has cast doubt on the building's future.

A deal to purchase the Bank of Montreal building at Main and James streets has been worked out with a Toronto-based business group; according to a local realtor.

Although he is confident the bank building can be preserved, he admitted the future of the structure will depend on the economic feasibility of renovating and restoring the building.

## KINCARDINE

Sketch plans for the restoration of the town hall and old post office were submitted to council by architects Hill and Borgal. Under the restoration program it is proposed to relocate the police headquarters, now in the town hall, to the basement and first floor of the old post office. The council chambers, which also are used for provincial court, will be enlarged when the police vacate the town hall. Estimated cost of restoring the town hall is \$86,000 and for the old post office, \$64,000.



OLD POST OFFICE REVAMPED

## KLEINBURG

Two Kleinburg properties, The Doctor's House and Redcroft House, will be designated as buildings of architectural and historical value. According to Alexandra Palmer, who prepared the report for the Vaughan LACAC, The Doctor's House is



a good example of vernacular building, and represents in terms of style and material, "the type of dwelling that was once common in the early Township of Vaughan".

## **MARKHAM**

Markham Councillor, Ron Moran, is leading the fight to preserve the historic 150 year old Wedding Cake House on Highway 48 in Markham. The estate that owns it wants it demolished, but demolition has been delayed 180 days under the town's historical buildings preservation by-law.

## **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

The Ministry of Culture and Recreation has agreed to help the town financially with its feasibility study of the old courthouse. Town council passed a by-law in October authorizing an agreement with the Ontario Heritage Foundation to share costs of the study. The foundation has agreed to pay 50 per cent of the cost of the study, up to a total of \$21,250.

## **NORWICH**

A resolution asking the federal government to incorporate the old Norwich post office bell and clock into any new building erected on the site was approved by the Norwich Township public works committee.

## **ORILLIA**

Council has accepted LACAC's recommendation that the Central Public School on Coldwater Street be designated as a site of architectural and historical value to the city. LACAC says this building and the Couchiching Beach Park Bandstand are vital to the character of the city and as such both sites should be protected against loss or damage through alteration.

## **OTTAWA**

The old Grant House at 150 Elgin Street should have a \$26,700 face-lift, Board of Control decided in November. Presently leased to Friday's Roast Beef House, the building has been declared a heritage site and must be maintained. Part of the proposed maintenance work is removing the white paint from the red brick surface. In addition, missing bricks and stones will be replaced, insulation will be added, and the masonry will be re-pointed. Built in 1875, the Grant House was

the residence of Dr. James Alexander Grant, who served as physician to Canada's Governors-General for 30 years.

## **PETROLIA**

The town of Petrolia has a history dating back to the early days of the discovery of oil. Much of that history is still alive today as many of the old buildings in town have been retained to provide a flavour of the good old days. The old railway station is a good example. Rather than tearing the building down when the station was closed and replacing it with a modern steel and glass structure, a few interior renovations turned it into a library which also acts as a reminder of days gone by.

## **PORT HOPE**

Objection of the proposed removal of Port Hope's C.N. station has been registered by Northumberland-Durham M.P., Allan Lawrence, with the Railway Transport Commission of the Canadian Transport Commission. Mr. Lawrence wrote, "Personally, I believe the present stone structure of the CNR Port Hope station is an excellent example of the older type of architecture which was once quite common as the typical railway station of the mid-1800s. Unfortunately there are now very few of these left on the contemporary scene and I am firmly convinced that the CNR themselves should retain, renovate, and maintain this particular building".

## **PORT STANLEY**

A preliminary report, based on a research project conducted by university student, Susan Webster, this past summer, was submitted to the Port Stanley Village Council a few weeks ago. The report listed eleven buildings as possible historical structures. A public meeting will be held to seek input from village residents.

## **RIDGETOWN**

At a January council meeting approval was given to provide one third of the cost of a \$5,500 feasibility study on the restoration of one of the town's major downtown commercial developments, the McKinlay Block. The third floor of the three storey building, which contains businesses and apartments on the other floors, is unoccupied and has fallen into some disrepair in recent times. It used to house the town's opera house and council.

## ST. CATHARINES

The huge brass doors of city hall will be repaired, not replaced, following a decision of St. Catharines' council in December. The LACAC believed replacement of the doors might be detrimental to the appearance of the building which is protected under the Ontario Heritage Act.

## ST. MARY'S

The 80-foot stone bridge built in 1884 was recently closed to traffic so that it could be repaired or replaced. At a recent meeting of St. Mary's Council, the members unanimously passed a motion requesting the St. Mary's LACAC to proceed immediately to designate the endangered bridge as architecturally and historically significant.

The town will soon have its third designated historical building if council here approves a by-law. The chairman of the LACAC said the M and M Store, at the corner of Water and Queen Streets is the group's current project. The committee is quite sure that this corner is the location of the first log store built in 1841 by Thomas Ingersoll, the founder of St. Marys. At the same time he also built a mill, a house for himself and one for a workman, all of log construction. The present building was put up between 1852 and 1857 and has always been a store.

## SCARBOROUGH

Scarborough's board of control has recommended approval of an almost completed \$600,000 restoration of historic Scott House and its conversion into a restaurant.

The board dismissed objections to the restoration as minor. The large 138 year-old fieldstone farmhouse is on Progress Avenue, north of the Scarborough Town Centre.

## SHAKESPEARE

An historical inn here that was a favourite stopping place for travellers in the mid-1800s is being restored.

Fryfogel Inn, along the Huron Road near this small town in southwestern Ontario is owned by the Perth County Historical Board and is being refurbished at an estimated cost of \$364,000. Funds for the work are coming from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Stratford, Perth County, and Wintario.

## SMITH FALLS

Street improvement, continued development of Lower Reach Park, the town's heritage house project and acquisition of a new sanitary landfill site all made it onto town council's six-point priority list for 1979. The heritage house project — restoration of the former Gleeson property on Old Sly's Road as the town's first museum — remains a strong point on the priority list.

## WOODSTOCK

Hidden by trees, at the end of a lane, is the unpretentious frame house built by Dr. Levi Hoyt Perry, doctor, teacher, and farmer, in 1819. It is the oldest house in Woodstock and is still occupied by its great grand-daughters Louise and Margaret Hill.

## ONTARIO'S MAIN STREET HERITAGE — TAKE A CLOSER LOOK (poster)

The following is a comment regarding the Guelph example:

It is entertaining to note that one of the examples chosen to provide the montage of Main Street is the Petrie Block, that outstanding architectural thumbing of the nose to Guelph's Wyndham Street, a four-storey insult of 1892 erected by a local druggist. True, it's fun, but architectural historians are particularly soft-hearted sometimes.

## FAULKNER NAMES COMMITTEE TO ENCOURAGE HERITAGE PRESERVATION

OTTAWA (February 19, 1979) — On the occasion of Heritage Day 1979, February 19, Honourable Hugh Faulkner, Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today announced a new initiative to save heritage buildings. Officials from five government agencies and Heritage Canada are beginning a study of ways to encourage preservation of heritage buildings. A committee has been formed to carry out the study.

"The loss of heritage properties in Canada is an urgent issue", said Mr. Faulkner, "and we need a redefined federal program to help stem the substantial loss of heritage buildings in Canada".

Mr. Faulkner said the need for such a program was made clear to him at a seminar on heritage building conservation which he convened last week to bring together leaders from government and the private sector in the heritage conservation field in Canada.

The heritage building preservation study com-

mittee will include representatives from the Department of Finance, Department of Public Works, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Secretary of State, Parks Canada, and Heritage Canada. Mr. Faulkner said the committee will be asked to study a paper presented to the seminar which suggests that present tax laws encourage the demolition of heritage properties and that tax reform measures appear to offer a good prospect for positive action.

Among the recommendations for encouraging the preservation of heritage buildings was the provision of tax deductions for owners of heritage properties who enter into protective agreements, and accelerated write-off of renovation costs for such buildings. Present income tax provisions which allow deduction of demolition costs may encourage the destruction of heritage properties and it was recommended that deduction of demolition costs for heritage buildings not be allowed.

Mr. Faulkner said the seminar heard proposals that financing be made easier for persons wishing to recycle older buildings, through the guaranteeing of loans, as is now in effect for residential construction. It was suggested that work on such buildings would be labour intensive and would produce jobs locally. Another proposal was that the 12% tax on building materials be eliminated for heritage rebuilding.

Another problem mentioned not within federal jurisdiction was the increase in taxes that frequently accompanied the upgrading of heritage properties. It was felt that some form of property tax relief should be provided.

Changes in building codes were suggested for older buildings which have obviously stood the test of time, but whose owners were forced to make costly renovations to conform to modern building standards.

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

Patrick M. O. Evans. **The Wrights**. Ottawa: National Capital Commission, Revised Edition

1978. 414 pp., 121 pp. index, many illus., \$20.00 (paper).

For any person who has ever attempted to trace the roots of his or her family tree, this work by Mr. Evans is awesome indeed.

He has in his second and amended edition delved very deeply into the Wright family and their connections. This is not just tables of family relationships but the reproductions of photographs and written documents presented in a manner that is pleasant to read, informative for the historian, and a living record of the many families it covers. Mr. Evans tells us he has over 10,000 index cards on people he has researched for this book.

For those of us whose families have lived in this area for some time it is a tremendous source of information. Reading family charts or pedigree tables can be confusing, but Mr. Evans has made his tables very clear for tracing or retracing a family. I would recommend to anyone using this book first to read carefully page 414, the index explanation.

The charming drawings used to illustrate an era and the "Musical Chairs" that Mr. Evans plays with family relationships all give a light and amusing touch to this in-depth study of one of the founders of our National Capital Region.

Judith M. Burns

### **An Historic Album of Paisley**

Available for six dollars, this album has 130 pages of pictures and notations that record the impressions of a village's life through a century.

### **Paths of Paisley**

Costing two dollars, this focuses on the architectural heritage of one district in the village. (According to B. Eric Parker, Chairman of the Paisley Heritage Advisory Committee, this publication would be of interest to communities involved in the designation of property under the Ontario Heritage Act. Ed.)

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